



## The Medical College of Georgia Office of Academic Affairs

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Approved by: COC  
Category: Clerkship Policies  
Context:

### Extended Self-Study Elective Policy

Students will occasionally participate in activities outside the normal curriculum of the medical school such as outside research fellowships which require that they remain active students. In general, these programs are between six months and one year in length. Because of the requirement that the student remain enrolled as a student in the Medical College of Georgia, they cannot be placed on leave of absence. This policy outlines how this takes place.

Students will be enrolled in the Self-Study elective (MEDI 5004) for either one or two semesters according to the following conditions.

1. Prior to enrolling in this program students must meet with a member of the Student Affairs faculty and a member of the Curriculum faculty to discuss the plan and outline the steps required. If the student is a regional campus student this meeting should also include a member of the Regional Campus leadership.
2. Students will be enrolled in the minimum number of hours required and will be expected to pay appropriate tuition and fees for those hours. Factors affecting the number of registered hours include, but are not limited to, need for financial aid, requirements of the program, and other courses during the semester.
3. Students are expected to be actively working on the requirements of the program during the time they are enrolled in the course. This cannot be used as an extended study period for a USMLE exam or other similar academic assessments.
4. Participation in this sort of program may have an effect on health insurance, loans, financial aid and scholarships in a similar way to a leave of absence. The student is expected to investigate these effects on their own.
5. Students are still expected to graduate within six years of matriculation according to policy.
6. Students should remain in contact with the Class Dean on a monthly basis during the period they are participating in the program.

Return to the curriculum:

1. Six weeks prior to returning to the curriculum, the student is expected to contact the Class Dean to inform them that they are planning to return.
2. Upon receipt of this notification, a meeting will be arranged between the student, a member of the Student Affairs faculty, and a member of the Curriculum faculty for all students and regional campus leadership if the student is a regional campus student.

Note: Programs of greater than one year using the self-study course may also be allowed on a case-by-case basis.